

Diplomatic Attaches Held As Hostages By Russian Reds

MILITARY MEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFFS HELD UP IN PETROGRAD BY TRICK OF BOLSHEVIKI—OTHER FOREIGNERS FIND NO TROUBLE GETTING OUT.

London, March 4—Dispatches from Petrograd describe the departure of the British and French embassies and the Belgian, Serbian, Greek and Portuguese legations last Thursday after a series of hindrances that in the case of the Italian embassy was sufficient to detain its staff in Petrograd after the others had left. The Italians still were in Petrograd on Saturday, also the staffs of the consulates.

The Bolshevik foreign office, while permitting the American, Japanese, Chinese, Brazilian and Siamese delegations to leave without restraint, insisted on endorsing all passports of those who were to leave. The passport specifically described the owner as a diplomat. Consequently a number of military and other members of the various missions were left behind and, says the correspondent of the Daily Mail, "apparently are held as hostages."

Foreigners not connected with the diplomatic service seem, however, to have accompanied the diplomats on their train, while reports suggest that others will be able to get away soon. Reasons given for holding the Italians differ, but it seems that Count Frasso, one of them, was obnoxious to the Russian foreign office, which also was said to have suspected the Italians of helping their nationals to escape from Petrograd contrary to regulations.

According to the correspondent of the Morning Post provision shops in Petrograd were absolutely empty on Saturday. Many of the shops were boarded up and food was not obtainable.

CONFEREES FIX COMPENSATION FOR RAILROADS

Washington, March 4—Agreement on compensation of railroads while under government control, based on the average of their net income for the three years ending June 30 last and substantially in the form approved by the senate, was reached today by the conferees on the administration railroad bill.

The house conferees accepted the senate provision providing that no allowance shall be made for money spent on improvements during the last few months preceding federal control. This would reduce the compensation about \$6,500,000 annually. Subject to final approval, the senate conferees agreed to include all short line railroads under the act instead of only short lines.

These settlements leave only two important points still in dispute—marking the period of government control.

1917 FIRE LOSSES WERE GREATEST SINCE 'QUAKE

ACTIVITIES OF ALIEN ENEMIES IN UNITED STATES, DESTROYING INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES MAKE STAGGERING TOTAL—1906 ONLY YEAR TO TOUCH IT.

Trenton, N. J., March 4—Losses from fire aggregated \$230,000,000 in 1917 and were larger than in any previous year except one, 1906, in the nation's history, according to a communication received today by the New Jersey State Council of Defense from the Council of National Defense. The San Francisco earthquake and fire occurred in 1906.

BERLIN CONFIRMS RUSSIA INVASION IS DISCONTINUED

Berlin, March 4, via London—Military operations in Russia stopped yesterday, says the official statement issued today by the German general staff.

On the western front a number of Belgians were captured yesterday in the sectors defended by Duke Albrecht. 27 prisoners were taken by the Germans.

DENVER LOSES 20 YRS. WATER FIGHT

Washington, March 4—The city of Denver, in the Supreme Court today, lost its fight of 20 years' duration against the Denver Union Water Co. over consumers' rates.

PLAGUE SPREADS IN CHINA

Shanghai, China, Thursday, Feb. 23.—The pneumonic plague has spread to Shantung province from Shansi province, where it has been prevalent. Four deaths have occurred in Tsinan, capital of Shantung province.

BRAVE HAL OF SHELLS FOR PALS

Volunteers Search No Man's Land for Missing Americans.

OFFICERS RECEIVE A "TASTE OF GAS"

Poison Makes General Slightly Ill—Honors For U. S. Men.

With the American Army in France, Sunday, March 3—(By the Associated Press)—Volunteers from American units along the Chemin des Dames searched No Man's Land in a rain of machine gun bullets for 13 missing men of a patrol party, but did not find any trace of them except one man who had been killed. It is certain that German obtained prisoners from this patrol. All the missing men came from New England.

Details of the German attack which failed completely to reach the trenches now are available. American artillerymen laid down a barrage fire as soon as the Germans started theirs. It is known that three companies of especially trained "shock troops" which had been practicing for this operation for two weeks, took part in the attack. Each company was preceded by a picked party of 20 pioneers.

The fighting was brisk for about an hour, but the accurate machine gun and rifle fire from the American front lines, coupled with the perfect American barrage which prevented reinforcements from coming up, forced the Germans to withdraw after suffering heavy losses and without having set foot in the American trenches.

Soon after the attack was over a young lieutenant commanded a platoon, members of which composed the patrolling party which had gone into No Man's Land, went out to find them but without result. He returned to the trench and asked for a voluntary detail. Every man in the platoon volunteered, but the lieutenant picked out a small party and set out again. They were forced to return, however, when the German fire became increasingly heavy. The lieutenant and a detail made a third search just before dawn, but without success.

The American general commanding the unit on this front said the men were eager for action and continually were asking permission to remain in the front line longer than the allotted period. It has been necessary to caution them frequently against exposing themselves, they are so anxious to get a crack at the enemy. However, they are tempted to peer over the top in the day time and go over at night in the hope of "starting something."

The French general who trained these troops is proud of the showing they are making, frequently exposing their period of instruction. An American captain said: "They called us tin soldiers in America less than a year ago, but I guess we are delivering the goods just the same."

Between 500 and 1,500 gas shells are thrown on the American positions on the Chemin des Dames each day, but there have been no serious gas casualties there. The men have been trained thoroughly in the use of gas masks and the necessity of putting them on before going into the trenches. They do not find it inconvenient to work and fight "like devils," as they say. A few men have been gassed slightly while adjusting their helmets, but this is inevitable when gas shells are thrown a long distance behind the lines. A brigadier general and a major who were riding in an automobile on a tour of inspection recently were gassed slightly when a shell burst within a hundred feet of their car. They suffered headache and slight nausea, but otherwise there were no ill effects.

An American brigadier general said today that he had asked for an American divisional citation for each member of the raiding party of 36 men which assisted the French in the raid of Feb. 23, in which two German officers and 21 men were captured. Two officers and two men of the raiding party already have been decorated by the French with the war cross. This is the first request for honors which has been made for Americans in this sector.

GENERAL MARCH TAKES UP DUTIES

Washington, March 4—Maj. Gen. Peyton C. March formally took over today his new duties as acting chief of the general staff, relieving Maj. Gen. Biddle, assistant chief, who has been directing staff affairs since Gen. Bliss, the chief of staff, was assigned to the supreme war council in Europe. Gen. March devoted his first morning to the regular session of the war council recently created by Secretary Baker and of which the chief of staff is a member.

Later the senior army officers on duty in Washington assembled at the department and were presented to their new chief.

TWO KILLED WHEN TRAIN HITS CAR

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., March 4.—Telephone advices from Kingston, N. Y., early this forenoon indicated that two persons had been killed and a dozen others seriously injured when a train on the West Shore railroad crashed into a loaded trolley car.

POKER WINNINGS COME UNDER NEW INCOME TAX LAW

Washington, March 4—Poker profits were hit today by the internal revenue bureau's informal ruling that winnings from the game were subject to the income tax, but losses could not be deducted from income in figuring the tax. Thus there is a tax for the winner and no relief for the loser. The ruling was given in answer to a letter of inquiry.

SUGAR THE BOOTY OF BURGLAR

Thief Passes Up Gems for 5 Pounds of Precious Sweetening.

The home of William Parker, 412 West avenue, was entered sometime between 10 o'clock Saturday night and 8 o'clock Sunday morning and a precious booty of five pounds of sugar and one pound of tea were stolen, while the household slept.

According to the statement made by William Parker, the police are led to believe that the burglar's main object in climbing four stories on the fire escape and then jimmying his way into the apartment through a back window, was to steal the sugar and tea. They have come to this conclusion because the thief deliberately overlooked many objects of value and seemed to have taken a great deal of pains to locate the sugar and the makings of the cup that cheers. Only \$5.50 was in the purse.

It is a mystery to the Parker family how anyone could have known they had five pounds of sugar in the house, and even if they did, how they discovered where it was kept.

All pink teas will be carefully watched in the immediate future in order that a line may be had on this new menace which threatens the bars and locks of the exclusive residential sections of Bridgeport. Everything on Saturday night's break points to the fact that it was committed by someone of the ordinary, and the police would like to meet the man who would climb four stories on a fire escape, jimmy open a window, pass up valuable bric-a-brac, silverware, jewelry, works of art and other valuables to make his principal booty five pounds of sugar.

WARN DRUGGISTS TO BE ALERT FOR SPY ACTIVITIES

Must Restrict Sale of Ingredients for Explosives to Those Known Loyal.

Notices have been received by the local druggists informing them that they must secure licenses, authorizing the purchase, possession and sale of certain ingredients of explosives, in accordance with the act passed by Congress on October 3, 1917.

The ingredients for which a license is required are: Dichromates, ammonium, potassium, sodium; chlorates, barium, strontium, sodium, potassium; chromates, ammonium, barium, calcium, chrome green, chrome yellow, lead, potassium, copper, ferrous, lead magnesium, nitrate acid, aqua fortis, fuming nitric acids of all grades and strengths, mixed acids; perchlorates, perchloric acid, potassium; perborates, magnesium, sodium, zinc; permanganates, calcium, potassium; sodium, potassium, barium, calcium, magnesium, oxon (cubic) and cartridges, sodium strontium, zinc, phosphorus. Any druggist who handles one or more of these ingredients must procure a license. Delinquency will be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year or both. The applicant must appear in person before the licensor, and must fill out the application form, giving the kind of explosive ingredient, bought, sold, or used by him during the six months next preceding the date of his application and also the quantity remaining on hand.

In regard to the sale of the ingredients, not more than one ounce of any one can be sold by a druggist to any person and furthermore, he must be satisfied that the buyer is a loyal citizen and does not intend to use the material for some unlawful purpose. Records of the sales of a larger quantity than one ounce must be kept by the druggist.

The ruling governing this licensing of the druggists is under the law, entitled "An act to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, storage, use and possession in time of war of explosives, providing regulations for the safe manufacture, distribution, storage, use and possession of the same and for other purposes."

The act has been passed for the purpose of preventing disloyal citizens from securing material with which to manufacture explosives and to keep explosives out of their hands and also to keep explosives from persons who will not guard them carefully enough so as to prevent them from being stolen by disloyal persons.

STATE SUPERVISOR DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Boston, March 4—Charles E. Burbank, state supervisor of administration, died at a hospital here today of pneumonia after a week's sickness. He was 52 years old and had practiced law in this city since 1894.

SIX TIMES REPULSED AT RIVER

Secretary Baker Tells of Belgians' Brave Defense Near Dixmude.

TURKISH SLAYING MORE ARMENIANS

Official Notes Continued Preparations by Germany for Drive.

Washington, March 4—Continued preparatory movements on the part of the Germans along the western front are noted today by the war department in its review of the military situation for the week ending March 2. "The momentum of battle is increasing," the statement declares, "the attempts of the enemy to reach the American trenches being cited as an example of what is taking place on a large scale 'on the entire western front.'"

The announcement is made that the American forces have taken over a sector northwest of Toul and that a number of units are operating in the Champagne.

Developments in the east are expected to affect conditions in France through a modification of German plans, the review intimates. Six German columns are operating in Russia, and to only one of these—the column moving toward Vitebsk—is any opposition noted.

Turkish forces advancing in the Caucasus are meeting with little resistance and are massacring Armenian residents of the districts retaken from the Russians.

The review follows: "The third month of relative quiescence on the western front has come to a close. During this period both belligerent groups have been massing their forces."

"There is evidence that the enemy continues to bring up fresh units. Owing to transportation difficulties this has been a slow and laborious process."

"The Allied war council now is in continuous session, assuring complete unity and flexibility of control."

"The British have extended their front. 'Our own forces have taken over a sector northwest of Toul. In addition a number of our detached units are in action in Champagne and the momentum of battle is increasing.'"

"We have but to note the occurrences of the last week in our own sector in Lorraine in order to gain an idea of what is taking place. Patrols have been very active. Early in the week the enemy made two attempts to reach our lines but were driven off by machine gun fire. On March 1 the enemy developed a sharply driven attack. After a short struggle the hostile detachment was repulsed."

"The Germans now are using gas along our front. Our men are becoming accustomed to this weapon. Our gas masks are efficiently protecting us. Our artillery was very busy shelling enemy dispositions and inflicted considerable damage on gun and mortar emplacements."

"Important troop movements took place behind the German lines opposite our front."

"In spite of the low visibility hostile aircraft continued active and made frequent incursions over our lines."

"In spite of the Chemin des Dames lively encounters took place. A French raid against the German outposts, in which a number of American volunteers participated, was very successfully carried through."

On Feb. 24 the French executed a coup de main, destroying hostile defensive works and shelters near Aspach, in upper Alsace. Small raids in Champagne and Lorraine were also recorded. The enemy also was driven back while attempting to react in the vicinity of the Butte du Mesnil and the Chemin des Dames."

"The boldest enterprise undertaken by the enemy during the week took place north of Dixmude. Here, after prolonged artillery preparation, the enemy tried to throw a bridge across the Yser. The Belgians successfully prevented six successive attempts to push this operation to successful conclusion."

"The new trend of events in Russia has no doubt modified German plans to a certain degree. For the time being the enemy continues to advance eastward. Following the highways and railroads six columns of invasion along a 700 mile front are operating in careful co-ordination. In Estonia the enemy has reached a point approximately 100 miles from Petrograd. In Livonia Jurjev, 160 miles east of Riga, has been entered. The column moving on Vitebsk is advancing at an average rate of 16 miles daily and has passed beyond Pskov. This force has met with some opposition. After the capture of Minsk the hostile enemy operating in this area continued its advance and is apparently headed for Smolensk and its ultimate objective, should it continue to find its course unimpeded, would be to cut off and possibly occupy Moscow."

"The fifth column, operating in the Pripiet sector, also is converging on Smolensk and Moscow as a final objective. The sixth column, composed of Austrian forces operating in Volynia, owing to the favorable reception the Austrians have received at the hands of the Ukrainians, has been able to advance more than 200 miles into the interior and is reported to be within 60 miles of Kiev."

"The Russians are believed to be preparing to stem the tide of invasion. Petrograd is being prepared to withstand a siege."

Blowing Up Railroad Bridges To Impede Troops Of Mikado

OTHER STRUCTURES IN THE WAY MINED, SAYS REPORT OF AMERICAN ENGINEER TO DASHINGTON—GERMANY PLANNING OCCUPATION OF WHOLE OF FINLAND.

AMERICANS HAVE TAKEN CONTROL IN NO MAN'S LAND

With the American Army in France, Sunday, March 3—(By the Associated Press)—Some of the American troops in the Chemin des Dames sector are having an experience of cave life behind the front trenches, their billets being deep underground quarries and natural recesses beneath the surface.

The correspondent on a visit to this sector, found them thus quartered, occupying positions held by the Germans less than a year ago.

Most of the Americans, however, are living in the trenches and accompanying dugouts. The front line trenches have been cleaned, strengthened and improved and are well protected with barbed wire entanglements.

At another point the correspondent saw some men who had just completed their round of trench duty.

As soon as the Germans learned that the Americans were in the trenches opposite them they put up a sign reading:

"Welcome Yankees."

The infantrymen riddled it with bullets until it looked like a sieve.

All the soldiers with whom the visitor talked expressed pleasure at being in the trenches rather than in a training camp.

A French captain declared the Americans had assumed control of No Man's Land soon after entering the trenches in a certain sector.

German prisoners captured in a patrol fighting there said that the handful of Americans attacked with so much force and vigor that the Germans threw up their hands and shouted "Kamerad," in the belief that there were many more in the attacking party.

Although numerous daring, courageous deeds have been performed by the Americans in that sector, one of the most interesting is that of a German-born sergeant who, with a small detail, took a German prisoner in a patrol fight but lost his way, with the result that the party wound up at the German barbed wire, where they could plainly hear the Germans talking in their dugouts. The sergeant pointed a revolver at the prisoner's head and whispered in German:

"Maybe they'll get us before we can get back, but if they try I'll kill you first. Now don't utter a sound, and lead us back to our line."

The German prisoner silently led the Americans back to their own trenches and then was turned over to the intelligence officer of the unit, who gained much valuable information from him.

WANT INCREASE ON PIG IRON PER TON

Washington, March 4—Application for increases ranging from 25 to 75 cents a ton on pig iron shipments in carload lots from points in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan to Duluth, Chicago and St. Louis was filed today with the interstate commerce commission.

AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN RAID KILL FIFTY BOCHES

ANTIPODEANS ENTER TRENCHES OF GERMANS AND DESTROY DUGOUTS—BRING BACK 11 PRISONERS—ENEMY RAID NEAR ST. QUENTIN REPULSED WITH LOSSES.

London, March 4—"A number of successful raids were carried out by us last night on different parts of the front," says today's war office report.

"Australian troops entered German trenches near Warne-ton and after killing at least 50 of the enemy and destroying several dugouts, brought back 11 prisoners."

"Other successful raids were carried out by Australian troops in the neighborhood of Gapaard, east of Messines and south of Hellebake. Prisoners were taken by us in each case and another machine gun was captured."

"North Middlesex troops raided the enemy's positions north of Passchendaele and captured several prisoners."

"Our casualties in these raids were light. Our troops also entered the German lines at several other points, in each case reaching the objective but without securing prisoners as the enemy's garrisons had withdrawn."

"A raid attempted by the enemy south of St. Quentin was repulsed, leaving a few prisoners in our hands."

"Shortly before dawn this morning the enemy's artillery developed considerable activity in the Lens sector."

WANT MECHANICS FOR FLYING CORPS

Washington, March 4—Call was issued today for 10,000 machinists, mechanics, chauffeurs and other skilled workers needed at once by the aviation section of the signal corps, it was stated, and announcement was made that additional increments must be obtained from the same classes in the near future.

The degree to which the aviation program of the army depends upon highly skilled labor is shown by the statement that "80 of every 100 men in the aviation section must be skilled in some branch of work."

Washington, March 4—The Russians have begun destroying bridges on the Trans Siberian railroad between Lake Baikal and the Chinese frontier. John F. Stevens, chairman of the American railroad mission, reported this today to the state department. This may prevent Ambassador Francis from reaching Vladivostok.

While without details, officials here believe the Russians are destroying the bridges to prevent an expected advance of Japanese troops.

A large number of other structures have been mined, Mr. Stevens also reported, so they could be readily destroyed.

Germany's occupation of the Aland Islands is only a preliminary to the total occupation of Finland. Official dispatches to the Swedish legation today say Germany has announced to the Stockholm foreign office her intention to occupy Finland, and that Sweden has protested.

Germany advised Sweden, the dispatches say, that it was necessary temporarily to occupy Finland to restore order, but gave assurances that she had no intention to take permanent possession of the territory. Sweden protested also against the Aland Islands being placed in the war zone.

At the state department today it was said no decision had been reached as to the part the United States would take in Japan's plan to intervene in Russia to prevent the railroad and immense war supplies from falling into the hands of the Germans.

The only other explanation for destroying the railroads which officials here can think of is the fact that there is a German prison camp near Chita and that Germans may have blown up the bridges with the double purpose of stopping movements of Japanese troops and intercepting Ambassador Francis.

The occupation of the Aland Islands, the dispatches say, to make them a base for supplying the German occupation of Finland.

There are 500 Swedish troops on the islands for police purposes. Their commander was notified by the German commander of his intentions and while so far there has been no clash reported, the Swedish troops have not been withdrawn and the feeling is described here as being very tense.

Supplementary treaties between the Central powers and the Bolshevik government were signed in Brest-Litovsk in addition to the main peace treaty, says a telegram from Best Litovsk to London by way of Vienna.

Former official announcement of the signing has not yet been received from the Russian side, but a late wireless message from Petrograd said the treaty would be signed Sunday. As the German official statement of Sunday night mentions only the cessation of operations in Great Russia it is inferred in some quarters here that the German advance in the Ukraine and Finland will continue while the Germans renege for themselves generally a free hand outside the limits of Great Russia.

LAMB AND MUTTON LAMB AND MUTTON MEATLESS DAYS

Federal Food Administrator Robert Scoville has just received word from Washington to the effect that until the 15th of April lamb and mutton may be used on meekles Tuesday. This ruling has been made by the United States Food Administration in order to assist producers who, because of transportation conditions, have been unable to market their stock earlier and are now forced to send a large amount of lamb and mutton to the market at one time.

Soft corn in the west also induced farmers to force the feeding of these animals in order that the corn might be consumed before warm weather. For this reason there is danger of a temporary glut in the market and it is desirable that the American public should have the benefit of the surplus while it lasts. It is hoped that the increased supplies of meat will have the effect of curtailing wheat consumption as it is becoming increasingly important that this commodity should be exported in large quantities.